

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for restricting access to information,  
5 said method comprising:

receiving a request from a requestor, said  
request associated with a plurality of request levels of a  
corresponding plurality of dimensions; and

10 comparing each of the plurality of request levels  
with each of a corresponding set of security levels.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

retrieving the set of security levels from a  
plurality of sets of security levels, wherein each of the  
15 plurality of sets of security levels are associated with at  
least one requestor.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a query for the request with the  
20 request levels, wherein each of the plurality of request  
levels are equal or exceed each of the corresponding set of  
security levels; and

generating a query with at least one of the security levels, wherein at least one of the security levels exceeds a corresponding one of the request levels.

5           4. The method of claim 1, wherein the request is associated with one or more request constraints, and further comprising:

                  retrieving one or more security constraints; and  
                  comparing each of the request constraints to a  
10       corresponding one of the security constraints.

                  5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
                  generating the query wherein each of the request  
constraints is equivalent to the corresponding one of the  
15       security constraints; and

                  denying the request, wherein one of the request constraints is different from the corresponding one of the security constraints.

20           6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
                  determining whether the requestor is in a restricted group;

wherein the requestor is in a restricted group,  
adding a request level to the request, wherein the added  
request level indicates that the requestor is in the  
restricted group; and

5            wherein the requestor is in an unrestricted  
group, adding request levels to the request, wherein the  
added request level indicates that the requestor is in the  
unrestricted group.

10           7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
determining one or more measures associated with  
the request;

selecting a stargroup associated with each of the  
one or more measures associated with the request, wherein  
15 the stargroup further comprises one or more stars;  
and

comparing each of the requested levels and the  
added levels to a corresponding plurality of aggregate  
levels associated with the stars.

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8. A computer readable medium for storing a  
plurality of instructions for restricting access to  
information, said plurality of instructions comprising:

receiving a request from a requestor, said request associated with a plurality of request levels of a corresponding plurality of dimensions; and

comparing each of the plurality of request levels  
5 with each of a corresponding set of security levels.

9. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the plurality of instructions further comprising:

retrieving the set of security levels from a  
10 plurality of sets of security levels, wherein each of the plurality of sets of security levels are associated with at least one requestor.

10. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein  
15 the plurality of instructions further comprising:

generating a query for the request, wherein each of the plurality of request levels are equal or exceed each of the corresponding set of security levels; and

generating a query with at least one of the  
20 security levels, wherein at least one of the security levels exceeds a corresponding one of the request levels.

11. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the request is associated with one or more request constraints, and the plurality of instructions further comprising:

5           retrieving one or more security constraints; and  
          comparing each of the request constraints to a corresponding one of the security constraints.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein  
10 the plurality of instructions further comprising:

          generating the query wherein each of the request constraints is equivalent to the corresponding one of the security constraints; and

          denying the request, wherein one of the request  
15 constraints is different from the corresponding one of the security constraints.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the plurality of instructions further comprising:

20           determining whether the requestor is in a restricted group;

          wherein the requestor is in a restricted group, adding a request level to the request, wherein the added

request level indicates that the requestor is in the restricted group; and

wherein the requestor is in an unrestricted group, adding request levels to the request, wherein the  
5 added request level indicates that the requestor is in the unrestricted group.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the plurality of instructions further comprising:

10 determining one or more measures associated with the request;

selecting a stargroup associated with each of the one or more measures associated with the request, wherein the stargroup further comprises one or more stars; and

15 comparing each of the requested levels and the added levels to a corresponding plurality of aggregate levels associated with the stars.